English

Lecture (1)

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Lecture Topics

➢ **The Vast Influence of Ibn Sina, Pioneer of Medicine**

By: Liz Tracey (https://daily.jstor.org/the-vast-influence-of-ibn-sina-pioneer-of-medicine/)

➢ **Grammar/ Articles (a, an, the)**

Ibn Sina

In the 11th century, science was rapidly advancing in the Islamic world.

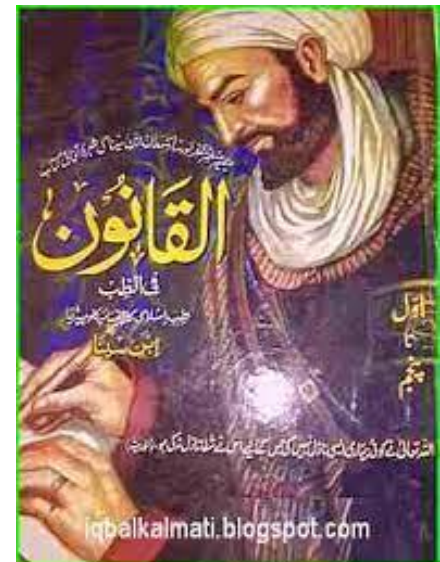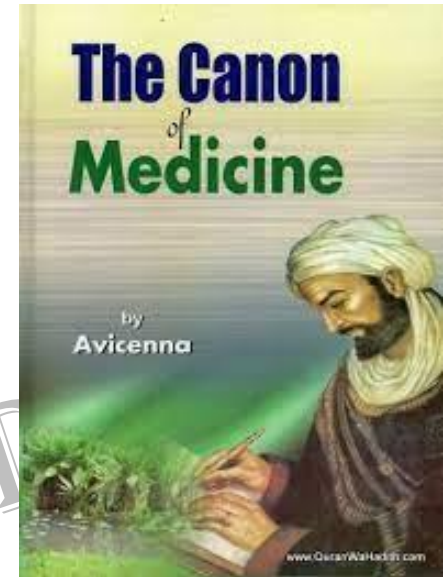The scholar Ibn Sina (Avicenna) synthesized its medical wisdom.

One thousand years ago, medicine not only looked different from what it is now, it also varied geographically. While many of the scientific texts of the Greeks were lost to Europe until the 12th century CE, in the Islamic world, the works of Galen, Hippocrates, and Aristotle were being read, discussed, translated, and taught to scholars and physicians.

Ibn Sina

One of those early "doctors" was the polymath Ibn Sina (980-1037), known in the West as Avicenna. By the age of eighteen, he was the court physician to the sultan of Bukhara (in present-day Uzbekistan).

His great medical work, The Canon of Medicine (Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb) was five volumes, spanning thousands of pages. It became the standard reference and textbook for physicians for some 600 years, translated into Latin, Hebrew, Turkish, Persian, and Irish. The Canon codified and categorized the theories and practices of Greek medicine, and incorporated material from Indian and Chinese medicine available to Islamic scholars, such as the use of medicinal herbs, spices, and compounds to treat illness.

Ibn Sina

However, sections of the Canon dealing with applied (rather than theoretical) medicine seem modern: cataract surgery, the use of forceps during difficult infant deliveries, and an approach to scientifically testing drugs for efficacy and dosage, in effect creating the framework for clinical trials.

Ibn Sina's medical legacy may be easily found in the numerous physician societies and medical schools named for him, as well as prizes for researchers and practitioners. In 2002, UNESCO created the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science, awarded every two years, the 2019 award went to Donald Brown, a law professor focused on environmental ethics and climate change.

Grammar

Using articles (a, an, the)

An article is a word that combines with a noun. In English, there are only three articles: the, a, and an.

When to use The

Use the before singular and plural nouns when the noun is specific.

"The teacher I spoke to at the school was very friendly." - Here we are talking about one specific teacher (the one I spoke to).

I'm going to take the dog for a walk.

Have you seen the car key?

They go to the school next to the bridge.

Grammar

When to use A/An

When we are referring to any member of a group we use a/an. It is not important which one we are talking about.

We use a when the word that follows it begins with a consonant sound. We use an when it's followed by a vowel sound.

"I want to buy a new car." - There are many types of car. It does not matter yet which type I want.

Compare this sentence with:

"I want to buy the car we looked at yesterday." - We use the here because we are talking about a specific car (the one we looked at).

I saw a good film yesterday.---- Do you want a drink?

Grammar

When NOT to use articles

A and the are not used with...

1. Plural Nouns

"Boys like soccer." - This sentence is ok because we are talking to boys in general (all boys).

"The Boys in my school like soccer." - This is ok because we are talking about specific boys (the ones in my school).

2. Real Nouns

Don't use articles with real nouns i.e. the names of people or places.

We DO NOT say: "I want to visit the Spain."

Grammar

3.   Uncountable Nouns

"Pollution is a problem." - Pollution is an uncountable noun (a mass noun).

"The pollution in my town is a problem." - This is ok because we are talking about a specific location.

"There is some pollution in my town." - This is ok because some tells us about the amount of pollution.

"There is a pollution in my town." - This is NOT ok because a is only used with countable nouns (a car, a boy) and pollution is uncountable. Water, traffic and snow are other examples of uncountable nouns.